

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending, with claims 1 and 15 being independent. By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite a switchgear housing unit that houses a switchgear mechanism and electrical controls for controlling and monitoring a connection to a high-voltage power line within a power distribution system, as shown in the application at, for example, page 6, lines 7-9. In addition, claim 15 has been amended to recite controlling and monitoring a connection to a high-voltage power line within a power distribution system using a switchgear mechanism and electrical controls that are included in a switchgear housing unit, as shown in the application at, for example, page 7, lines 14-21. Claims 7, 13, 14, and 16 and have been amended in view of the amendments to claims 1 and 15, and claim 20 is added by this amendment. No new matter has been introduced.

The drawings were objected to because Figures 1 and 2 illustrate prior art. The drawings have been amended to indicate that Figures 1 and 2 illustrate prior art. For at least this reason, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Claims 1 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Hollenbeck (U.S. Patent No. 6,112,535). Applicants have amended claim 1 and 15 to obviate this rejection.

As amended, claim 1 recites a system for controlling and monitoring a power distribution system. The system includes a connection to a high-voltage power line within the power distribution system. A switchgear housing unit connected to the power distribution system that includes a switchgear mechanism for controlling the connection. Electronic controls for monitoring and controlling the switchgear mechanism are embedded within the switchgear housing unit to form a single, self-contained unit.

Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because Hollenbeck fails to describe or suggest all of the features of claim 1. Specifically, Hollenbeck fails to describe or suggest “a connection to a high-voltage power line within a power distribution system,” as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, Hollenbeck fails to describe or suggest “a switchgear housing unit connected to the power distribution system that includes a switchgear

mechanism for controlling the connection" to the high-voltage power line within the power distribution system, as recited in claim 1.

Hollenbeck describes a compressor within a refrigeration system. The compressor includes a hermetically sealed compressor housing that holds various components of the compressor (Hollenbeck, col. 5, lines 20-21). For example, a motor located within the compressor housing drives the compressor (Hollenbeck, col. 5, lines 55-56). In addition, controls for the motor, such as a position sensing circuit, an electronic commutating circuit, and a power switching circuit are included in the compressor housing (Hollenbeck, FIG. 1, col. 6, lines 14-41).

The components of the compressor and the refrigeration system of Hollenbeck are not intended to be connected to high-voltage power lines within a power distribution system. Instead, they would be connected to normal, low-level AC voltages that are significantly smaller than voltages carried on the high-voltage power lines.

Moreover, Hollenbeck does not describe using the refrigeration system to monitor and control distribution of power over high-voltage power lines. Instead, Hollenbeck describes using the refrigeration system to cool objects within the refrigeration system.

Therefore, Hollenbeck does not describe or suggest a connection to a high-voltage power line within a power distribution system. Consequently, Hollenbeck does not describe or suggest a switchgear mechanism for controlling the connection to the high-voltage power line.

For at least these reasons, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1.

Similarly, claim 15 recites monitoring and controlling a connection to a high-voltage power line within a power distribution system using electronic controls included in a switchgear housing unit. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15, for at least the reasons described above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art in view of Trümper (U.S. Patent No. 4,367,900). Applicants have amended claims 1 and 15 to obviate this rejection.

Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because the admitted prior art and Trümper, either alone or in combination, fail to describe or suggest all of the features of claim 1. Specifically, the admitted prior art and Trümper fail to describe or suggest “electronic controls for monitoring and controlling the switchgear mechanism [that] are embedded within the switchgear housing unit,” as recited in claim 1.

The admitted prior art describes a switchgear and electronic controls that are included in separate housings. The Office Action relies on Trümper to describe or suggest the features of the electronic controls and the switchgear mechanism being embedded in a housing unit to form a single, self-contained unit, indicating that such features are not described or suggested by the admitted prior art (Office Action, page 4).

However, Trümper describes a mineral mining installation that is configured to cut minerals away from a mineral face (Trümper, Abstract). More particularly, the mineral mining installation includes a winning machine that is equipped with cutter drums for cutting the mineral, such as coal, away from the mineral face (Trümper, col. 1, lines 6-10). The mining installation includes a control station that is mounted away from the winning machine, for example, “in a gallery or a roadway outside the main working” (Trümper, col. 1, lines 39-49). The control station includes various monitoring and control devices for the mining installation, such as “motor contactors or switchgear together with monitoring means for sensing the power consumption of the [cutter] drums The monitoring means is connected to a control device ... which controls a frequency converter” (Trümper , col. 3, lines 5-15).

As noted, the admitted prior art fails to describe or suggest including the switchgear mechanism and electronic controls for monitoring and controlling the switchgear mechanism in a common housing unit. Trümper fails to remedy the shortcomings of the admitted prior art. Specifically, Trümper also does not describe or suggest including electronic controls for controlling a switchgear in a housing for the switchgear. While Trümper does describe electronic controls included in a housing that includes a switchgear, Trümper does not describe or suggest the electronic controls controlling the switchgear. Instead, Trümper describes the

electronic controls controlling a frequency converter also included in the housing (Trümper, col. 3, lines 10-15).

Furthermore, the Office Action argues that Trümper would have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system described in the admitted prior art (Office Action, pages 4-5). Applicants respectfully disagree, and assert that the mineral mining installation of Trümper would not have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of the admitted prior art to include the switchgear mechanism and the electronic controls in a single switchgear housing unit.

The mineral mining system described by Trümper would not have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to include electronic controls for controlling a switchgear in a housing for the switchgear, as characteristics and operating environments of the two devices are significantly different. For example, the mineral mining installation and the system described in the admitted prior art are used in different applications. Trümper describes using the mineral mining installation to cut minerals away from a mineral face, while the system described in the admitted prior art is used to monitor and control distribution of power over high-voltage power lines within a power distribution system. As would be known by one of skill in the art, the components of the mineral mining installation of Trümper are not exposed to voltages of similar magnitudes as the voltages carried on power lines within a power distribution system.

Therefore, the admitted prior art and Trümper, either alone or in combination, do not describe or suggest the features of “electronic controls for monitoring and controlling the switchgear mechanism [that] are embedded within the switchgear housing unit,” as recited in claim 1.

For at least these reasons, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims.

Similarly, claim 15 recites monitoring and controlling a connection to a high-voltage power line within a power distribution system using electronic controls included in a switchgear housing unit. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of

Applicant : John P. Jonas et al.
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claim 15, and its dependent claims, for at least the reasons described above with respect to claim 1.

Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

No fees are believed to be due. During prosecution of this application, please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/19/05


John F. Hayden
Reg. No. 37,640

PTO Customer No.: 26171
Fish & Richardson P.C.
1425 K Street, N.W.
11th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-3500
Telephone: (202) 783-5070
Facsimile: (202) 783-2331

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Applicant : Jóhn P. Jonas et al.
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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 2 and replaces the original sheets including Figs. 1 and 2.

Figures 1 and 2 have been designated as prior art, as required by the Office Action.

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheet (2 pages)